

# *ANGLER GUIDE*

## **RIVERS AND STREAMS**

Anglers in the Moreau watershed streams primarily pursue largemouth bass, spotted bass, bluegill, longear sunfish, and channel catfish. Largemouth and spotted bass, bluegill, and longear sunfish are abundant in all of the major streams. Channel catfish are most abundant in the North Moreau, South Moreau, and Moreau River. Smallmouth bass are less common, but anglers may catch one in the South Moreau, Burris Fork, and Moreau River.

Anglers catch white bass, white crappie, walleye, sauger, and flathead catfish seasonally in the North Moreau, South Moreau, and Moreau River. These species are not very abundant. Giggling for suckers is possible in the major streams but it is limited due to poor water clarity and frequent low water.

There are public concrete ramps on the Moreau River at the Moreau Access and Honey Creek Access. The Moreau 50 Access is one mile east of Jefferson City. The entrance road is just east of the Moreau River and just north of Highway 50/63. Honey Creek Access is three miles southwest of Jefferson City on Highway 54, and two and a quarter miles southeast of the highway on Buffalo Road. Public bank access is available on South Moreau Creek at Scrivner Road Conservation Area and on North Moreau Creek at Stringtown Bridge Access. Scrivner Road Conservation Area can be reached from Russellville by going 2.1 miles south on AA, then 1.6 miles southeast on Scrivner Road, then 0.7 miles northeast on Scott Road to the area. Stringtown Bridge Access is five miles west of Jefferson City on Highway C, then one mile west on Hemstreet Road.

Anglers fish from the bank, by wading in shallows, and floating the larger streams in a small johnboat or canoe. The upper put-in points are Rockhouse Bridge on North Moreau Creek (5.5 miles south of McGirk off Highway K) and Decatur Bridge on South Moreau Creek (four miles south of Russellville on Highway AA). During low water periods, portage over riffles is often necessary.

Statewide stream fishing regulations apply to all streams in the watershed.

## **Fishing Tips**

**Largemouth, spotted and smallmouth bass:** All three of these species of black bass can be caught on a large variety of lures. Spinner baits, crank baits, plastic worms, and jigs are commonly used artificial lures. Live bait (night crawlers, crayfish, minnows, etc.) is also very effective. The largemouth bass prefers the quieter pools while spotted bass and smallmouth bass like reaches with more current. All of these species relate to cover (fallen trees, root wads, boulders, steep banks, etc.). Artificial lures are usually retrieved through or near the cover while live bait is more often still fished in or near the cover.

**Bluegill and longear sunfish:** Live bait like crickets and pieces of night crawlers are a good choice for catching bluegill and longear. Artificial lures will also work but these fish have small mouths and your lure will need to be small as well. Most sunfish anglers still fish or allow the current to move their bait slowly by the cover. Floats are often used to suspend the bait at the level of the fish.

**Channel catfish:** Channel catfish are equipped with a sense of smell that allows them to find food in very low visibility situations. Often bait that has a strong odor will be most effective. There are many commercial stink baits available. Chicken livers, shrimp heads, dead minnows, and cut shad are also good choices. Night crawlers will work for channel catfish too. Fish for channels on the bottom, either still fishing or drifting in the current. Many anglers use limb lines and trotlines for catfish.

**Other Fishes:** White bass and crappie are usually caught on minnows or artificial lures that imitate small minnows. Flathead catfish prefer live baitfish. Walleye and sauger can be caught by drifting jigs tipped with night crawlers or minnows along the bottom in late winter and early spring.

## **PUBLIC LAKES**

Scrivner Road Conservation Area, Proctor Park in California, and Hough Park in Jefferson City provide public lake fishing in the Moreau watershed. All of these lakes have populations of largemouth bass and bluegill and the Department of Conservation stocks these lakes with channel catfish regularly. Winegar Lake, on Scrivner Road Conservation Area, is eight acres. This lake also has a population of redear sunfish. Directions to the area are written above. Proctor Park in California is four-tenths of a mile south of Highway 50 on Highway 87, and just east of Highway 87 on Parkway Drive. The lake is seven acres and it has a handicapped accessible fishing dock. Hough Park, also a seven-acre lake, can be reached by going south from Ellis Boulevard in Jefferson City on Route B for 1.1 miles, then east (left turn) one block on Tanner Bridge Road, then continue east (right turn) on Hoffman Drive three blocks to Iven Drive, then north one block to the lake.

**Fishing Tips:** Anglers can catch redear sunfish by tight-lining with pieces of night crawler on small hooks on the bottom. Largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish tips are listed in the above section.